CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: **CALIF. INDIAN GAMING UPDATE.**
Editor's note: Lots of news to report about the effort to qualify an initiative for the Nov. 3rd ballot dealing with **Calif. Indian gaming**. Here's our update...

...The collection of signatures to qualify an initiative statute to permit Calif. Indian tribes to operate video slots at their card clubs ended April 19th. The signatures, perhaps more than 800,000, are now being sorted by county and checked for mistakes and duplications. To qualify, an initiative statute needs 433,269 valid signatures. July 27th is the final day for an initiative to qualify for the Nov. 3rd ballot...

...The effort to qualify this initiative was begun on Mar. 26th -- and **Calpeek** sources say sponsors will turn in petitions to county registrars by Apr. 24th or Apr. 27th. If that happens, it will be one of the *quickest drives* to put an initiative on the ballot. Most initiative efforts take the full 150 days allowed...

...Meantime, the opponents of the initiative are finally moving forward. **Calpeek** sources say 3 Calif. campaign firms were invited by the Nevada Resorts Assn. (representing NV casino interests) to make presentations to run the NO campaign, should this measure get on the ballot. The firms were: Goddard*Claussen, Woodward & McDowell and Nelson Communications Group, working with George Gorton. Nelson already represents the CA Card Club Assn, comprised of 173 card clubs...

...In addition to the NV Resorts Assn. and the CA Card Club Assn., opposition to this initiative also could come from the CA horse racing industry; the movie theater owners(NATO); and perhaps even from G-Tech, the firm which sponsored the lottery initiative. The bottomline: opponents will spend **$60 to $90 million** to defeat this initiative --- if it qualifies...

...FYI: Lingering in the background is this *compact* between Gov. Pete Wilson(representing Calif.) and the Pala Indians. This new agreement would permit this tribe (and other tribes who sign the compact) to operate card club casinos with a new type of video slot machine. This new machine is *untested* and few know for sure if it will work as well as the current slots. But one thing is clear: there is a knock-down battle in the CA Legislature over ratification of this compact. Senate President Pro Tem John Burton(D) is carrying the ratification bill, SB1502. The bill was voted out of the Senate G.O. Cmt. April 21st on a 6-5 vote. Sen. Richard Polanco(D-L.A.) is leading the charge (against Burton/Wilson) on behalf of the tribes who are sponsoring the initiative. There are Demos & GOPers lined up on both sides. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: **UPDATE ON STATEWIDE CONTESTS.**
Editor's note: All candidates for governor are now on tv. We'll take a brief look at some of the new ads, plus report on the AG primary...

☒ ***Governor's Race*** - First, let's look at the 3 recent polls about the governor's race: *Field Poll*(Mar. 5-15, 383 likely voters); *L.A. Times*(Apr. 4-9, 566 likely voters); and *Public Policy Institute* (Apr. 1-8, 993 likely voters):

	Field	LAT	PPI
Al Checchi(D)	15%	22%	19%
Gray Davis(D)	11%	13%	12%
Jane Harman(D)	17%	24%	18%
Dan Lungren(R)	24%	28%	23%
Other	5%		3%
Undecided	28%	13%	25%

...Turning to **TV**, Lungren's got two spots: a :30-sec. bio ad and an anti-crime spot. Both should help him

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with his base and perhaps stop the cross-overs to Checchi & Harman. Like Lungren, Davis had to go up now or face real trouble in the remaining 6 weeks. Davis' first :30-sec. spot is a solid bio piece, which stresses his experience and touts his law & order endorsements. The ad ends with that now familiar tagline: *experience money can't buy* --- a slap at Checchi & Harman...

...As for Checchi, his tv spots continues to *hit* Harman's record in congress. There's little doubt that Checchi's hits have *slowed her down*. How much? The current polling suggests the primary on the Demo side is dead even. But some of the ads are *distortions* of Harman's record -- and the negative Checchi ads have resulted in *negative stories* about Checchi in the print media. The most recent story about Checchi comes from the *S.F. Chron's* Ken Garcia (**Checchi Ads Sinking to New Low. Negativism escalates despite his promises**)...

...FYI: According to DC-based columnist Robert Novak, the **White House** is furious with Checchi's ad attacking Harman's budget vote, where she sided with Pres. Clinton. To counter one Checchi ad which uses a photo of Pres. Clinton, Harman is firing back with an ad called ***"admire,"*** featuring footage of Bill Clinton where he praises Harman during a '96 campaign appearance in Calif. The ad started Apr. 21st and should run 1 week. It's a good spot, but not a *show stopper*...

☒ ***AG's Race*** - By the time you read, State Sen. Bill Lockyer(D) will be up with his first tv ad, produced by media consultants Bill Carrick and Richie Ross. Lockyer has a huge $4 million warchest and has endorsements from a number of law enforcement groups. But in the polls, the AG's race is still very much a wide-open battle. Here's what the polls show:

	Field	LAT*
Charles Calderon(D)	5%	6%
Bill Lockyer(D)	11%	13%
Lynn Schenk(D)	8%	6%
Dave Stirling(R)	8%	10%
Mike Capizzi(R)	8%	5%
Others	4%	
Undecided	56%	60%

...* Unlike Field, the *L.A. Times* survey did **not** use ballot titles. Although it's too early to make any calls on the Demo side, Lockyer's *spin* is that he's best positioned among the Demos to win the nomination. Statements like this drive Calderon right up the wall...

...On the GOP side, the battle between Stirling and Capizzi continues unabated. Stirling's camp got a boost from the *LAT* poll and perhaps that might help his limp fundraising efforts. Good poll numbers tend to have a positive impact on fundraising. Both consider themselves to be pro-choice, which may surprise some GOP insiders. And of the two, Stirling has the more moderate credentials. Elected to the Assembly in 1976, Stirling allied himself with the moderate wing led by then GOP Leader Paul Priolo and in the Priolo vs. Hallett leadership war, Stirling sided with Priolo. In his first bid for AG in 1982, Stirling lost the primary to the more conservative George Nicholson. Right now this GOP match-up is too close to call. Stay tuned...

***CAMPAIGN '98:* UPDATE ON HOT ASSEMBLY RACES.**
Editor's note: Here is Part II in our continuing series of updates about the hot CA Assembly primary contests...

☒ ***33rd AD*** - There are 4 GOPers vying to replace Tom Bordonaro(R-San Luis Obispo). Bordo is neutral in this primary. GOP sources in Sacto believe this is Dr. Rick Bravo's race to win or lose. He's the former SLO Co. GOP chair and thus has lots of IOUs. The CA Medical Assn. has given him $40,000 and he's their guy. In the 2nd tier and working *very hard* is Santa Maria Mayor Abel Maldonado, who is young and has *deep pockets*. He was Bordo's Santa Maria cmp. chair in the special. Also in the 2nd tier is former SLO Co. Sup. Steve MacElvaine, who is a moderate GOPer. Both Bravo and Maldonado are conservatives. The lone Demo is attorney/registered nurse Betty Sanders...

☒ ***7th AD*** - This is the open seat of Demo Valerie Brown, who is *termed out*. Capitol insiders lean to Brown's COS, John Latimer of Santa Rosa. He's got a broad base of support and has done well in fundraising. *Friends of Brown* gave Latimer $40,000 - so you know where Valerie is on this primary. In the 2nd tier are Santa Rosa Councilwoman Patricia Wiggin and Napa real estate exec. Deborah Russell. Some think that Russell may have the potential to break through to battle Latimer. This is Demo turf, but the lone GOPer is Bob Sanchez...

☒ ***3rd AD Update*** - Assemblyman Bernie Richter's COS & son-in-law David Reade has used the mail and

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is on tv talking about his past DUI problems, which go back 10 years. The 33-year-old also admits doing jail time for the DUI arrests. Reade is in a tight race with Dr. Sam Aanestad...

☒ ***73rd AD*** - This is the seat of Bill Morrow(R), who is running for the State Senate. The 73rd is split between the southern part of Orange Co. and northern parts of San Diego Co. It's strictly GOP turf, but Robert Wilberg is the lone Demo. On the GOP side it's a *mud fight* between Laguna Nigel Councilwoman Pat Bates and attorney Jim Lacy, with San Clemente Councilman Steve Apodaca watching. Bates is out with an AV mailer and has backing from Assemblymembers Curt Pringle, Marilyn Brewer and Dick Ackerman. Lacy is supported by the CRA. With both Apodaca and Bates having political bases of support, we're keeping an eye on these two for now...

CAMPAIGN '98: **UPDATE ON CITY & COUNTY RACES.**
Editor's note: Here is Part II of our expanded coverage of city & county races...

☒ ***Long Beach*** - There will be June runoff for City Prosecutor between Asst. City Atty. Tom Reeves and Asst. City Prosecutor Robert Recknagel. Reeves got **29%** to finish ahead of Recknagel, who got **26%**. The big news in this race is that the two Demos, Evan Anderson Braude and Gerrie Schipske, finished 3rd and 4th respectively. Schipske has now endorsed Reeves. Reeves also is backed by the *Press Telegram*...

☒ ***Orange County*** - The dominant issue in Orange Co. these past 3-4 years is what to do with El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. On Apr. 21st, County Supes voted 3-2 to turn the former USMC base into a mid-sized international airport. So most candidates running for any office in O.C. are judged as either pro or anti airport. The issue just won't go away...

...In Dist.#4, there are 5 candidates seeking to replace Bill Steiner, who was the swing vote in favor of the new airport. Four of the candidates have professionally managed campaigns. They include community college trustee Cynthia Coad(pro-airport); Anaheim Councilman Lou Lopez(pro); Eric Woolery(anti); and La Palma Councilman Paul Walker(anti). **Calpeek** sources place Coad and Lopez in the top tier. FYI: the big shock was that Anaheim Mayor Tom Daly did not run for Steiner's seat...

...In Dist.#2, incumbent Jim Silva(pro-airport) faces Huntington Beach Councilman Dave Sullivan, Sandra Genis and Ralph Silva. In Dist.#5, incumbent Tom Wilson (anti-airport) faces Newport Beach councilman John Hedges(pro-airport)...

☒ ***San Mateo County*** - *Termed out* Sup. Tom Huening is running for Controller against incumbent Gerry Trias. And there's only one candidate seeking Huening's seat: San Mateo Councilman Jerry Hill, who scared away the competition. 3rd District Sup. Richard Gordon is unopposed...

☒ ***Kern County*** - Both incumbents Steve Perez and Barbara Patrick are unopposed. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: **UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.**
Editor's note: Here's another update on some of the hot U.S. House primaries in Calif...

☒ ***1st CD*** - A new poll for Demo State Sen. Mike Thompson by Garin-Hart-Yang. Mar. 31-Apr. 1, 403 likely voters. The seat is OPEN because GOP U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs decided not to seek reelection. In the open primary: Thompson(D) **39%**, Mark Luce(R) **7%**, Jim Chase(R) **6%**, other **7%** and undecided **41%**...

☒ ***46th CD Update*** - According to a *Sacto BEE* story by Laura Mecoy, the GOP primary featuring former Congressman Bob Dornan has turned very *nasty*, which absolutely delights Demo U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez, who has no Demo primary opposition and sits atop a $917,000 warchest. The GOP establishment in Orange Co. continue to worry that if Dornan is the nominee, he could *drag down* GOP Assemblyman Jim Morrissey and State Sen. Rob Hurtt in November. Morrissey is considered vulnerable and the Demos may target Hurtt. According to the *BEE* story, Dornan said, "Why should I stand aside for a term-limited assemblyman who never made any waves?" (a reference to Morrissey). And Dornan said, "Why should I step aside for a guy who gives up his leadership post?" (a reference to Hurtt). It's no wonder that Dornan's chief GOP rival, attorney Lisa Hughes, is getting most of the key GOP endorsements --- but then as one source has noted, *"You don't run on endorsements alone."*...

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CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Checchi vs. Trounstine*** - *San Jose Mercury News* political editor Philip Trounstine is perhaps one of the best at his trade. And it was Trounstine who on Oct. 19th wrote a well-balanced story about Demo businessman Al Checchi's leadership while serving as co-chair of *Northwest Airlines*. Checchi didn't like the article and now he and his campaign are POed at a recent Trounstine article which blasts one of Checchi's tv ads. Although the Checchi campaign says they are trying to resolve the situation, as of **Calpeek's** deadline, the Checchi campaign is refusing to take any questions or calls from Trounstine. Very infantile & foolish. Other sources use the word *dumb*...

■ ***No on 226 on TV*** - With a budget of **$8 million** for tv and radio, *Californians to Protect Employee Rights* launched their first :30-sec. tv ad this past week. As **Calpeek** predicted 3 weeks ago, the ad focuses more on what the anti-226 people call the *agenda* of non-Calif. backers of the measure --- insurance exec. J. Patrick Rooney and DC-based conservative activist Grover Norquist. The ad never mentions Rooney or Norquist by name, but photos of both are on screen. The latest *L.A. Times* poll of likely voters shows YES on 226 leading by a **66%** vs. **26%** margin. The current *Field Poll* has the race a little tighter. Not one regular L.A. tv station covered the NO on 226 news conference Apr. 21st. FYI: media consultants Steve Powell & Alex Castellanos have been hired to do the tv ads for YES on 226...

■ ***Eastin on TV*** - State Schools chief Delaine Eastin is on tv, doing a :30-sec. spot for Demo Al Checchi. The ad probably helps Eastin more than Checchi. And she may need the help. The latest *L.A. Times* poll has Eastin leading Gloria Metta Tuchman by a margin of **39%** vs. **23%** among likely voters. FYI: the powerful CTA did **not** endorse Eastin for reelection...

■ ***Clinton's Poll Numbers Go UP*** - In the new *L.A. Times* poll, Pres. Bill Clinton's job approval rating is at an all-time high in Calif.: **72%** approve vs. **25%** disapprove. Among Demos: **90%** approval rating...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes in our file...

● A sad note: Gordon Lau, 56, S.F. attorney and the city's first elected Asian county sup, died Apr. 19 of heart failure. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: former Commerce Sec. Maurice Stans, who served in the Nixon Cabinet, died Apr. 14 in Pasadena. He was 90. R.I.P...

● The S.F.-based campaign firm of Staton/Hughes has hired Rafe Greenlee as a sr. associate. He was a campaign spokesperson for former Texas Gov. Ann Richards. The firm also hired Margot Shaub from U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's staff...

● Richard Wiebe joined the Sacto office Goddard* Claussen as a sr. vp. He was the deputy commisisoner in CA Dept. of Insurance...

● Former CA Assemblyman Tom Umberg(D-Orange Co.) on Apr. 2nd was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate as a deputy director at the White House Drug Policy Office...

● The Calif. FPPC has hired Leon Page as its legislative coordinator. Page was legislative director for Assemblyman Brooks Firestone(R-Santa Barbara)...

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